



# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

## London - April, 1986

Spring's chill air seeps into  
the bedsit where the radio announces:  
Soviet officials have admitted  
that a nuclear accident took place...

In the Ukraine people evacuate  
their homes temporarily.  
(It is just a precaution –  
all is contained.)

In the afternoon, she roasts  
spring lamb for their dinner.  
Places sprigs of rosemary  
into the scored fat of its skin.

He drives to the shops  
for carrots and cigarettes  
and returns hours later with  
beer on his breath.

They learn that Reactor Four  
suffered a catastrophic  
power increase leading to  
an explosion in its core.

Over dinner, she smoulders.  
There are no carrots and not enough  
colour to balance the greens  
and brown gravy. They eat in silence

as a cloud crosses a continent  
and a sea and rains down  
chemicals that contaminate  
next year's lamb.

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<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/home.html>